



Grand River Conservation Authority

Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: April 24, 2020
Time: 9:30 am
Location: GRCA Zoom Virtual Meeting
Note: This meeting was streamed live for the public on GRCA's Board Webcast page

Members Present Marcus Adili, Les Armstrong, Bruce Banbury, Robert Bell, Don Brunk, Richard Carpenter, John Challinor II, Brian Coleman, Bernie Corbett, Kevin Davis, Jim Erb, Susan Foxton, Guy Gardhouse, Joan Gatward, Rodrigo Goller, Michael Harris, Helen Jowett, Daniel Lawrence, Geoff Lorentz, Ian MacRae, Kathryn McGarry, Jane Mitchell, Joe Nowak, Warren Stauch, Bruce Whale, Chris White

Staff Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Dwight Boyd, Beth Brown, Krista Bunn, Nancy Davy, Brandon Heyer, Sonja Radoja, Tracey Ryan, George Sousa, Lisa Stocco, Pam Walther-Mabee, Sara Wilbur, Eowyn Spencer, Janet Ivey, Martin Keller, Fred Natolochny, Stephanie Shifflett, Mark Anderson, Scott Robertson, Gus Rungis

- 1. Call to Order**
The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.
- 2. Certification of Quorum**
The Secretary-Treasurer certified quorum with 26 Members present. A total of 26 Members attended the meeting.
- 3. Chair's Remarks**
The Chair welcomed the Members to the virtual meeting and reviewed some protocols for order during the meeting.

4. Review of Agenda

Agenda items 11 and 15 were moved to immediately follow the Review of the Agenda.

20-45

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Rodrigo Goller

THAT the agenda for the General Membership Meeting be approved as amended.

Carried

11. 1st and 2nd Reading of By-Laws

K.Armstrong highlighted that the By-Law has been amended in accordance with guidance from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks that allows Conservation Authorities to hold electronic meetings during a declared State of Emergency. Other updates include updated wording related to special meetings and minor grammatical corrections.

20-46

Moved By Jane Mitchell

Seconded By Michael Harris

THAT Grand River Conservation Authority By-Law 2-2020 be read a first and second time.

Carried

15. 3rd Reading of By-Laws

20-47

Moved By Chris White

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

THAT By-law 2-2020 be read a third time and adopted by the General Membership, to take effect on April 24, 2020;

AND THAT By-law 1-2020 be repealed on April 24, 2020;

AND THAT a copy of By-law 2-2020 be forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and posted publicly on Grand River Conservation Authority's website.

5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests made in relation to the matters to be dealt with.

6. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

20-48

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of February 28, 2020 be approved as circulated.

Carried

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

7.1 Appointment of Member to Audit Committee - Motion Required

The Chair called for a Member to sit on the Audit Committee along with six other Members appointed in February and Jane Mitchell volunteered

20-49

Moved By Bruce Banbury

Seconded By Les Armstrong

THAT the following Member be appointed to the Audit Committee from April 24, 2020, until the next Annual General Meeting: Jane Mitchell.

Carried

8. Hearing of Delegations

There were no Delegations.

9. Presentations

There were no Presentations.

10. Correspondence

Additional correspondence items regarding the Laurel Creek Sugar Shack were received from Nancy Matthews and Fraser Gibson and were distributed to the Board prior to the meeting

20-50

Moved By Kathryn McGarry

Seconded By Chris White

THAT Correspondence from Drew McKillop regarding the Ontario Federation of Snowmobiling Clubs Economic Impact Study, and from Peter Raspberry, Jim Hamilton, Nancy Matthews and Fraser Gibson regarding the Sugar Shack at Laurel Creek Conservation Area, and from the Town of Milton regarding Conservation Authorities, and from John Kemp regarding Giant Hogweed mitigation efforts, and from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding Conservation Authorities during COVID-19, be received as information.

Carried

10.1 Drew McKillop - pages of OFSC Economic Impact Study

S.Lawson indicated that communications are ongoing with the OFSC district manager and options for future agreements are being considered. An update will be brought to the Board at the May meeting

10.2 Peter Raspberry - Laurel Creek Sugar Shack

- Board members asked questions regarding the demolition of the sugar shack, specifically regarding local groups who have shown an interest in funding its continued use, and safety issues relating to the current site
- T.Ryan responded to questions, and shared that the decision to demolish the sugar shack was made in collaboration with the local school board. T.Ryan indicated that the site does not meet current safety requirements for a number of reasons, and that a review of the program determined further investment in the program does not fit the current operational model of the nature centre. T.Ryan also indicated that the local school board is in agreement with the decision to discontinue this program at its current location
- B.Whale requested that a follow up letter be sent to those who submitted correspondence

10.3 Jim Hamilton - Laurel Creek Sugar Shack

10.4 Town of Milton - Council Resolution

10.5 John Kemp - Giant Hogweed Mitigation Efforts on the Grand River

R.Carpenter asked about the expertise of the submitted correspondence. S.Lawson responded that she could not speak to that, but commented that GRCA forestry staff are responsible for removal of the Giant Hogweed on GRCA properties. Due to property closures, consideration for members of the public to enter GRCA properties to assist in the removal process cannot be granted.

10.6 MECP - Direction for Conservation Authorities during COVID-19

12. Reports:

12.1 GM-04-20-22 - Cash and Investment Status

20-51

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Daniel Lawrence

THAT Report Number GM-04-20-22 Cash and Investment Status – March 2020 be received as information.

Carried

12.2 GM-04-20-21 - Financial Summary

20-52

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By Bruce Whale

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending March 31, 2020 be approved.

J.Challinor noted that the financial statements for February and March were not included in the agenda package. K.Armstrong confirmed that this an error and

that the statements would be distributed following the meeting and included in next month's report.

20-53

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

THAT the approval of the Financial Summary for the period ending March 31, 2020 be deferred to the May 22, 2020 meeting of the General Membership.

Carried

12.3 GM-04-20-24 - Cottage Lot Curbside Garbage and Recycling Materials Collection, Processing, and Disposal Contract 2020-2022

- Board members had questions related to invoicing by weight and separation of recycling, status of closures as they relate to the cottage lots, and weekly or biweekly pick up
- S.Lawson indicated that the service provider weighs pick up loads and invoices the GRCA on a monthly basis, further noting that the weight is specified on each invoice. Recyclable items are separated
- As landlords the GRCA is required to fulfil all obligations under the Residential Tenancy Act and existing leases for the cottage lots, even in the current pandemic emergency. Cottagers have been notified of conservation area closures that affect boat ramps and park facilities, and that municipal and GRCA services and response times may be delayed due to reduced operations as a result of the pandemic
- S.Lawson added that the weekly pick-up for waste items is stipulated in the current lease agreements with cottagers, and the GRCA is obligated to fulfill all requirements outlined in the leases

20-54

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Richard Carpenter

THAT Report Number GM-04-20-24 – Award of Cottage Lot Curbside Garbage and Recycling Materials Collection, Processing, and Disposal Contract be received as information.

Carried

12.4 GM-04-20-27 - Replacement Tractor Purchase

- Board members asked why the lowest bid wasn't accepted for this purchase
- K.Armstrong clarified that the Request for Proposal highlighted specific requirements for the purchase. Due to the specific needs, there were many criteria being evaluated to award the highest-ranked bid.

- R.Carpenter suggested that proposals that do not meet the specific qualifications be disqualified from the bid. K.Armstrong noted this could be considered for future purchase evaluations

20-55

Moved By Susan Foxtton

Seconded By Warren Stauch

THAT Report Number GM-04-20-27 – Replacement Tractor Purchase be received as information.

Carried

12.5 GM-04-20-28 - General Insurance Renewal 2020-2021

- K.Armstrong highlighted that the GRCA obtains general insurance as part of a group consisting of 34 Conservation Authorities and Conservation Ontario, and that insurance premiums are increasing for the 2020-2021 coverage year
- B.Corbett asked if automobile insurance relief was being provided due to the pandemic as there was a recent announcement to this effect made by the provincial government. K.Armstrong noted that the relief was focused on personal automobile coverage and does not extend to commercial coverage; however, the GRCA's insurance broker advised that they are not aware of any relief being provided to date even in personal coverage.
- K.Armstrong further highlighted that the increased premiums are due to a number of factors including increased overall claims due to natural disasters and a global increase in property insurance claims

20-56

Moved By Bernie Corbett

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT Report Number GM-04-20-28 – General Insurance Renewal, 2020-2021, be received as information.

Carried

12.6 GM-04-20-31 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines Regulation

B.Corbett asked how enforcement is being handled during the pandemic. S.Lawson noted that staff are not currently permitted to conduct site visits due to challenges with maintaining physical distancing. Site visits will resume when they can be conducted in a safe manner.

20-57

Moved By Don Brunk

Seconded By Daniel Lawrence

THAT Report Number GM-04-20-31 – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation, be received as information.

Carried

12.7 GM-04-20-25 - Proposed Amendments to Regulations and Standards under the Aggregate Resources Act

M.Harris left the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

20-58

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Joan Gatward

THAT Report GM-04-20-25 – Proposals to amend O.Reg.244/97 and the Aggregate Resources of Ontario Provincial Standards under the Aggregate Resources Act (EBR 019-1303) – be received as information;

AND THAT this report be forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry through Environmental Registry Number 019-1303.

Carried

12.8 GM-04-20-26 - Potential Trail and Area Closures Due to Ash Hazard Tree Risk

20-59

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By Kathryn McGarry

THAT Report Number GM-04-20-26 – Potential Trail & Area Closures Due to Ash Hazard Tree Risk be received as information.

Carried

12.9 GM-04-20-30 - Environmental Assessments

20-60

Moved By Kathryn McGarry

Seconded By Susan Foxtan

THAT Report Number GM-04-40-30 – Environmental Assessments be received as information.

Carried

12.10 GM-04-20-29 - Brantford Ice Jam Study

K.Davis expressed his appreciation to the GRCA for completing this study and commended staff their efforts.

20-61

Moved By Kevin Davis

Seconded By Richard Carpenter

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority receive the Brantford Ice Jam Study, dated April 2019 and prepared by KGS Group Consulting Engineers as information;

AND THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority work with City of Brantford staff to carry out a feasibility study that provides an analysis of the technical and financial options to mitigate future Ice Jam Flooding.

Carried

12.11 GM-04-20-20 - New Hamburg Flood Mitigation Study

20-62

Moved By Les Armstrong

Seconded By Warren Stauch

THAT Report Number GM-04-20-20 Completion of the New Hamburg Flood Mitigation Study be received as information.

Carried

12.12 GM-04-20-23 - Current Watershed Conditions

20-63

Moved By Guy Gardhouse

Seconded By Don Brunk

THAT Report Number GM-04-20-23 – Current Watershed Conditions as of April 14, 2020 be received as information.

Carried

13. Committee of the Whole

Not required.

14. General Business

There was no General Business.

Carried

16. Other Business

- K.Davis asked about fishing on the Grand River and restrictions due to the emergency order. S.Lawson responded that all GRCA properties are closed, which includes river access points owned by the GRCA and so fishing is not currently permitted anywhere on GRCA property
- The Chair welcomed Mr. Davis to his first meeting of the GRCA Board

17. Closed Meeting

20-64

Moved By Rodrigo Goller

Seconded By Brian Coleman

THAT the General Membership enter a closed meeting to discuss a confidential matter regarding labour relations or employee negotiations.

Carried

20-65

Moved By Richard Carpenter

Seconded By John Challinor II

THAT the General Membership return to open session.

Carried

17.1 Staff Report - Labour Relations or Employee Negotiations

20-66

Moved By Brian Coleman

Seconded By Susan Foxtton

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority receive GM-04-20-C01 - GRCA's Response to COVID-19 Pandemic as information.

Carried

18. Next Meetings

General Membership - Friday, May 22 at 9:30 a.m.

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

20-67

Moved By Joe Nowak

Seconded By Kathryn McGarry

THAT the meeting of the General Membership be adjourned.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer